

Maine Department of Marine Resources

Notice to Atlantic Herring Fishery:

Atlantic Sea Herring Management Plan **Area 1A Effort Reduction Provisions**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved Amendment 2 to the ASMFC Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan in March 2006. One of the provisions of the Amendment addresses the need to control the catch rate of herring to prevent the early closure of herring management areas. Management Area 1A is of particular concern because in some years the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) has been harvested before peak market demand abates in the autumn. The amendment allows for effort controls to extend the fishery to be implemented by the states involved in the Area 1A fishery through landings restrictions. At a February 27th 2007 meeting in Durham, NH the states of MA, NH and ME agreed to:

Starting June 1, 2007:

The Area 1A commercial herring fishery is closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

Once 25,000 metric tons (50% of the quota) are landed or projected to be landed:

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays will be closed to commercial fishing.

However, if less than 25,000 metric tons are landed prior to October 1st; directed commercial fishing on Fridays will still be permitted.

If the three days out are implemented:

States will evaluate the rate of take for two weeks to determine if additional measures need to be taken in order to have roughly 15,000 metric tons available by October 1.

As of Aug. 29th Maine DMR has determined that the 1A catch will be 50% of the quota by Sept 3rd.

Landing Restrictions: Effective September 3rd, 2007, It is unlawful to land Atlantic herring in the State of Maine taken from ASMFC Management Area 1A from 6:00 pm on Thursday to 6:00 pm on Sunday.

This restriction is in effect until December 31, 2007 or until replaced by further restriction, if need be.

Exceptions: 1. Any vessel may land herring as an incidental catch caught in ASMFC Management Area 1A in any Maine port, as long as such herring do not comprise more than 2,000 pounds per trip.

2. This landing restriction shall not apply to the fixed gear fishery.